—Chancellor arriving, top-hatted, with his leather satchel, his face inscrutable, and crowded benches and public gatherings waiting in hushed silence for the dramatic moment when he divulged the closely guarded secret of what new impositions be proposed and what existing ones were to be rescinded. Now, though Members still assembled in strength, their attention was liable to wander; and once in the debate which followed the Chancellor's speech, the House was actually counted out.

The nation's accounts had lost their fascination; like a melo-drama, in its day breathlessly followed, and later becoming tedious or laughable because too little related to contemporary circumstances. In the Chancellor himself—Mr. Chamberlain, and later Sir John Simon, there was no lack of solemnity; he felt the deep seriousness of the business in hand, reverently announced expenditure and estimated receipts, and virtuously balanced them. He could no other. For him, the process was still valid —one good Budget at least shining in a largely budgetless world.

For him valid, and for some others; but for most, not. Up and up and up the Budget went if nothing else did, until its in-creases became fanciful, and Members of Parliament, when income tax reached seven-and-six in the pound, merely laughed. How distant then seemed the time when to save eleven million pounds by reducing unemployment benefit, was heroic! What anguish then for the Friends of Economy! Their friend-ship had to be bestowed on other causes, and Economy left friendless—unless, mostly aged, they were content to bestow

it on none, Friends of Themselves only during their last days.

Mr. A. P. Herbert, Independent Member for Oxford University and long-standing contributor to *Punch,* energetically espoused the cause of divorce law reform. Newspapers had been deprived of the right to report divorce court proceedings, and were forced to content themselves with going through each session's long list of cases in search of high-born or wealthy or otherwise distinguished adultery. This was, for them, the only